

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 8, 2005 LB 28

withdraw my pending amendment to Senator Pederson's amendment.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers has withdrawn amendment to FA15. We'll return to discussion on amendment FA15. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm feeling so much love from my colleague, the senator from North Omaha, I'm overwhelmed. I've seen it exercised so many times in this body and I'm...thank you, Senator Chambers, so much for that compassion and love that you have shown to all of your colleagues, particularly to our Speaker. I'm sure he appreciates that very much. I want to stand in favor of the Pederson amendment and make some brief comments. I think we often talk about public-private partnerships in this body. We talk about them on the floor. We talk about them off the floor. We talk about them in committee. We talk about them in groups that we speak to and that we listen to, and I don't think there's any better example of public-private partnerships than those between many, many not-for-profit organizations, and we as public policymakers and people who work for government. Many of these nonprofits were established to fill those holes, to fill those gaps that we as a government, because of fiscal policies, because of restraints that we had on us, certainly those were choices that we had to make. They filled those holes, they filled those gaps, and they have done so successfully for many, many years. I think what Senator Connealy is attempting to do is to ensure that those entities can continue to fill those holes. Will every not-for-profit corporation collapse without this legislation? No. Will you see an increase in giving by passing this type of legislation? I think very definitely you will. I think Senator Chambers made a good point. Is it fairly callused that you have to entice givers with tax incentives in order to entice them to give to a charitable purpose? Unfortunately, Senator, you're absolutely right. It's sad. It's sad that we can't look at charity purely for what it is, but we can't. On the same token, we've done that with business incentives. Isn't it sad that we can't depend on Nebraska corporations to decide to stay in this state because they love the state of Nebraska and because they want to keep their employees happy and they want to contribute to the economic